Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* Is the Hon'ble Member for Forests aware that other than these supplies made by the Department jungle-wood from the Cochin Forests is being supplied outside the State?

Mr. S. Venkiteswaran *(Conservator of Forests):* That is an export. It is not a departmental supply.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri):* Do you give permits for these exports?

Mr. S. Venkiteswaran *(Conservator of Forests):* There was no permit system before. But now permits are being issued.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri):* What is the quantity covered by the permits that have been issued?

Mr. S. Venkiteswaran *(Conservator of Forests):* I want notice.

ADJOURNMENT MOTION

Mr. President: Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar has given notice of a motion to adjourn the business of the House to discuss an urgent matter of public importance regarding the lack of sugar in the Fair Price Shops of the State. I am not clear that this is a specific matter of recent occurrence and I am prepared to hear the Hon'ble Member.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar *(Nellayi):* Sugar was being supplied regularly. For the last few days, one or two weeks, we are not getting sugar. So is it not a matter of recent occurrence?

Mr. President: It must be a specific matter of recent occurrence, for example in any particular shop.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar *(Nellayi):* In all the Ration Shops outside the towns sugar was not supplied.

Mr. President: I should like to hear the Hon'ble Member for Food Supplies.

Rao Sahib M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies):* The stock of sugar went low in last December consequent on the delay in the despatch of our quota. We had a stock of about 500 tons of sugar in the beginning of December. It was expected that a fresh stock would arrive early in December. About 800 tons of sugar were due to arrive here then. Permits had been issued for it by the Sugar Controller on 22nd November 1944 and prompt steps were taken for importing the same. But inspite of repeated representations to the mills, the Sugar Controller, etc. the despatch commenced only on 22nd December and the first consignment arrived only on 7th. January 1945. This late arrival caused scarcity of sugar for the issue in some areas. But the situation is being rapidly eased. From 22nd December three waggons were being moved to the State daily from the Vishnu Sugar Mills from the North India. About 1640 bags of sugar (164 tons) have already arrived and they have been sent to the various divisions under the Assistant Supply Officers for quick distribution. Fresh consignments are daily arriving and they also will be distributed quickly. No further scarcity of sugar is likely to arise in the future. Assistant Supply Officers have been given special instructions to effect speedy distribution of the issues of sugar to make up for the delay in issuing supplies.

In the normal course there was no reason to apprehend that there would be any break in the supply, was not possible therefore to anticipate it and effect a proportionate reduction in the distribution. Hence it has not been possible to curtail the supply made in the previous months. There has not been complete stoppage of supply in all the areas. Only in few shops there was shortage. Now we hope to make up the shortage in the next few months occurring to availability of stock.

Mr. President: Is the Hon'ble Member satisfied with the explanation given by the Director of Food Supplies?

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar *(Nellayi):* Sugar has become a daily necessity now-a-days and so if it will be supplied without further delay....

Mr. President: Unfortunately the State is entirely dependent upon mills outside the State for the supply of sugar and the Hon'ble Member realises as I do that the Transport difficulties do occur and so the Government can give no guarantee that the shortage will not happen again.

Motion, by leave, withdrawn

SUPPLEMENTARY GRANTS—*(cont.)*

18. Rs. 860 under 1-Land Revenue—Cattle Pounds

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu *(Diwan Peishkar):* Sir, I beg to move for an additional allotment of Rs. 860—under "1—Land Revenue—Cattle Pounds (3) Miscellaneous",

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